

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

LEVEL
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ICU OPENS DOORS TO 199 STUDENTS

For four years, Japanese, Americans and the world have been looking forward to the opening of the Japan International Christian university, the first international university in Japan. Finally that day came. April 13, the freshmen class of 199 attended the opening ceremonies of the university's liberal arts school.

In 1949 the Japan International Christian University foundation was formed in New York and a similar organization was formed in Japan. Since then efforts have been directed to laying a physical and spiritual foundation for a university that would bring to the students of all lands an opportunity to study and live together in a Christian atmosphere in a university staffed with acknowledged scholars in their respective fields.

In order to show to its readers how these foundations have been laid and how they are being used, the Activity News presents in this issue a picture of ICU as it begins the first school year.

After walking over what might seem like at least 300 of the 365 acres of the campus, it is impossible for one not to wish that one's own name were included in the list of the opening class. Not only does the physical plant of the one main building now completed indicate the material equipment available for obtaining an education, but talking with and listening to some of the administrators and professors, one realizes that here indeed is gathered a nucleus of some of the leading educators of two cultures.

Located on the western outskirts of Tokyo, ICU has an extensive campus that provides ample room for a complete university campus and farm land besides. At present, only one university proper building has been completed. This main building houses the administrative offices, classrooms,

library, faculty lounge and student snack bar. Plans for the future include a science building, physical center and chapel. At present there are several faculty houses, which will increase in number to about twenty-five when all building is completed. Dormitories for both women and men students are also in the plans of the future.

Farm buildings, which house the stock and fowl which have been imported from the United States, have been erected and even during vacation this area is the scene of activity.

Though there are only 199 students on the campus now, as the school grows the student body will increase to 1,000, including the 400 post-graduate students. At present the student body is nearly entirely Japanese young people, however five Chinese students have entered through the United Boards of Christian Colleges in China from Hongkong. Also two Indonesian, one Korean and two Chinese students who live in Japan are a part of this year's freshmen class.

More statistics on the first year class reveals that 55 of the students are women and 60 of the group graduated from the English institute which was held at the university during the last school year. About 35-40% of the student body is Christian.

Part of the Christian atmosphere of the university will be supplied by three regular chapel services held each week. One meeting is a regular chapel service while the other two are Bible classes. Sunday services are held and are attended by citizens in the community as well as the students and faculty.

When the faculty of ICU has been completed, about 50% will be from foreign countries. At present, thirty of the forty-five professors and instructors are Japanese. American, Canadian, and Swiss Scholars make up the balance of the staff at present. Later Professors from France and Germany are expected.

All faculty members are Christians and will extend their influence beyond their classrooms and their subjects as they live with the students in a Christian atmosphere. To show the emphasis upon this Christian atmosphere, one has but to read President Hachiro Yuasa's opening address in which he stresses "every member of the ICU is expected to cooperate democratically in a spirit of Christian brotherhood in this unique academy dedicated to the service of God and humanity."

YOUTH FOR CHRIST WORLD CONFERENCE WILL BE IN TOKYO

Tokyo, Japan, will be the scene of the World Conference of Youth for Christ this summer, August 3-10. One thousand delegates from twenty-seven countries will attend the conference. Following the mass meeting, the assembly will divide into teams of from five

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to ten to travel in an evangelistic mission over Japan in the weeks following the conference.

The preparation committee is meeting every month to lay plans for this world-wide gathering. S. F. Wolgemuth, general secretary of Youth for Christ in Japan and Kaneo Oda, chairman of the Japanese committee and Tsugio Tsutada, vice chairman, are working on plans for this meeting.

INDIAN CHRISTIAN LITERATURE LEADERS MEET WITH JAPANESE WRITERS

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Warren of India visited in Japan the first part of April during their tour of the Far East. Mr. Warren is the general secretary of the Christian Literature Society of India and general manager of The Wesley Press of that country. Mrs. Warren (Ruth Ure) is the former secretary of the literature committee of the NCC of India.

During their stay here they met with various Christian publishers and writers associations in Tokyo and Osaka, as well as with the NCC literature committee. They also visited printing companies and book stores.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren discussed the mutual problems of the Christian literature writers and publishers with Japanese representatives and contributed some suggestions to the Japanese groups. They spoke of the need of the Japanese literature work to be more progressive and self-supporting. They also encouraged the Japanese publishers to use Japanese art and printing technics in which they excel rather than imitating the West. The desire and necessity of keeping in close contact with all Christian literature workers in the Far East was stressed by the Warrens.

Sunday School Leaflet Meets Demand

The need of the new Sunday school student lesson leaflets published first in April by the NCC church school department and literature committee (see News #13) is indicated by the demand of the kindergarten teachers for a similar pamphlet for their age children. "Intimate Friend" (Nakayoshi) will be issued from May and edited by Rev. Akira Takada to meet this request.

Free Distribution Provided for Christian Newspaper

A Christian newspaper (Tatekoji Christian News) is being published twice a month and 15,000 copies distributed free to all homes in the

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city of Yamaguchi by the pastor of the Tatekoji church, Rev. Masao Hiramatsu. Rev. Hiramatsu is using thirty of his junior high school boys to distribute this two-page newspaper. Advertisements will be used to meet the expense of publishing.

REVISION OF CHURCH SCHOOL CURRICULUM IS DISCUSSED

The church school department of NCC is meeting April 27 to study the revision of the curriculum in the Sunday school studies. This meeting, under the direction of Mrs. Willis Browning, will study five standpoints of the curriculum as it applies in Japan today. The theological standpoint, led by Prof. Kazuo Kitamori of Tokyo Union Theological seminary; psychological standpoint, by Dr. Megumi Imada president of Kansei Gakuin; general education, by Prof. Koichi Kobayashi of Aoyama Gakuin; Christian education by Prof. Takeshi Takasaki of Tokyo Union Theological seminary; and curriculum by Prof. Shigeo Matsukawa of Tokyo Christian Women's college.

The first church school leadership training conference will be held this summer from July 21 to 24 at Kutsukake in Nagano prefecture. The theme of the conference will be "Study in Christian Education through Church History". One hundred fifty church school leaders from all over Japan will attend.

Three Sunday school teachers' training summer conferences will be held to replace the one held last summer. The first will be held July 28-31 at Seiwa Junior college in the Kansei area, 120 teachers will meet and August 24-28 in Beppu on Kyushu island, the third conference will be held.

PERSONNEL ENGINEER VISITS FACTORIES

Under the sponsorship of the Japan Rotary club and NCC, Melvin J. Evans, personnel engineer, has been visiting in Japan since March 31. In addition to visiting factories and companies, Evans has met with the Tokyo Rotary club and Japan Economic Council Industrial club. Together with Christian business men, he has been studying the personnel conditions in these industries. A retreat in Atami from April 16-18 is being attended by Christian business men and any other business men who are interested.

YMCA LAY LEADERS' CONFERENCE HELD

The second national lay leader's, conference of YMCA was held at Tozanjo, Gotemba April 11 and 12. The main theme was "The Christian Emphasis in the Japanese YMCA". This conference under the direction

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~~The fifty-fourth city association~~
of Dr. Paul M. Limbert was attended by more than 100 lay leaders from thirty-four city associations. It was one of the major programs of the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the National Committee of YMCAs in Japan.

The fifty-fourth city association of the Japan YMCA was opened on April 14 at Okayama. Dr. Shinobu Tabata, president of Doshisha university, was the guest speaker at the opening ceremony.

TOKYO WORKSHOP ON AUDIO VISUAL AIDS AND RADIO HELD IN TOKYO

On March 21 and 22, under the sponsorship of AVACO, over two hundred persons were brought together in Tokyo from all over Japan for the third annual workshop of audio-visuals and radio.

Leading experts available interpreted the three main fields of concern, radio, projected aids including slides, film strips, and moves, and drama or non-projected aids. These experts included Mr. Kiyoshi Mani, head of the religion department of the government radio network, who interpreted the place of religious broadcasting in the Japanese radio scene and Mr. Isoji Sekiya, outstanding Christian layman and radio children's story-teller.

Sunday morning, March 21, the conference guests attended the Ginza church where Dr. Wallace Merwin, secretary of the Japan Committee of the NCCC/USA, preached. The conference closing worship brought before the conference Dr. Michio Kozaki, moderator of the United Church of Christ.

One of the most notable facts about the conference was the large number of young people present, including many students, theological students and young lay people, many of whom were representing local churches and training to service their groups.

COVENANT AND STATEMENT OF FAITH PREPARED BY UNITED CHURCH

Since the establishment of the United Church of Christ in its leaders have been working to prepare a creed which would be acceptable to all members. The committee working on this has prepared a covenant and a statement of faith as a preface to the Apostles' Creed. These statements will be presented to the annual meeting of the church in the autumn of 1953.

For those interested in this covenant and statement of faith, the complete English text is printed here.

The Covenant of the Church of Christ in Japan

We who have received baptism in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and been admitted to the Church which is His Body,

putting aside all unrighteousness and superstition, maintaining close fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, praying always for the manifestation of the glory of God, make the following pledge:

1. We will respect the order of the Church, obey its teachings and discipline, emphasize the importance of Sabbath worship, prayer services, and other meetings, observe the Holy Communion, be diligent in evangelism, and labor for the support and development of the Church by giving our time, our money and our strength.
2. Daily studying the Scripture and continually praying, we will maintain a life of piety, purity and temperance.
3. We will strive to emphasize family worship, maintain harmony in the home, lead members of our families into the faith, and serve God as united households.
4. Mutually respecting human personality, loving our neighbors, and laboring for the welfare of society, we will strive for the realization of the justice and love of Christ throughout the whole world.
5. Obeying the Will of God and raising the standard of morality of the state, we will labor for the realization of international justice and will look forward to the attainment of world peace.

May God have mercy upon us and enable us to accomplish this purpose.

Amen.

A Statement of Faith as a Preface to the Apostles' Creed

We believe that the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God, testify to Christ, reveal the truth of the Gospel and are the only authorized Canon which must be the foundation of the Church. Therefore, the Bible, which is the Word of God, and gives us perfect knowledge about God and Salvation, is the faultless standard for faith and living.

The only one God who is revealed by the Lord Jesus Christ and testified to in the Bible is to be worshipped as the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Son became man and for the salvation of us sinners was crucified and became our atonement by offering the only perfect sacrifice.

God chooses us by his grace and justifies us, forgiving our sins faith in Christ alone. By this unchanging grace, the Holy Spirit, sanctifying us and making us bear the fruits of righteousness, accomplishes his work.

The Church is the body of Christ and is the gathering together of those who are called by grace. The Church maintains public worship, rightly propagates the Gospel, conducts the Holy Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and as the salt of the earth and the light of the world looks forward to the coming again of the Lord.

Thus believing we confess the Apostles' Creed with the saints of old.

